WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   An information code formed by arranging three or more types of display areas in a predetermined arrangement, said display areas being different in reflected or radiated wavelength characteristic, wherein said wavelength characteristics of said display areas in said predetermined arrangement are combined to form a unit for displaying information.

2.   An information code having a display pattern formed by arranging three or more types of display areas in the same arrangement as in one of other information codes which are monochromatically displayed, said display areas being different in reflected or radiated wavelength characteristic, wherein said wavelength characteristics of said display areas in said arrangement are combined to form a unit for displaying information, and

    wherein said information code has a framework defining a relationship between a combination of said wavelength characteristics of said display areas in said arrangement and information items represented thereby, said framework being designed to include a framework for monochromatically displaying information, defined by said one of said other information codes.

3.   A reader for an information code comprising:

    a filter for separating reflected light or radiated light from said information code according to a difference in wavelength band, said information code being formed by arranging three or more

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types of display areas in a predetermined arrangement, said display areas being different in reflected or radiated wavelength characteristic;

a plurality of detectors for photo-electrically converting light

5   in every wavelength band separated by said filter;

a plurality of determination circuits for determining whether an output from each of said detectors exceeds a predetermined determination level; and

a decoder for decoding information displayed by said

10   information code, based on a combination of said outputs from said determination circuits, and outputting said information decoded.

4.   A reader for an information code comprising:

a plurality of monochromatic light sources provided so as to correspond to said information code being formed by arranging

15   three or more types of display areas in a predetermined arrangement, said display areas being different in reflected or radiated wavelength characteristic, and so as to correspond to said different wavelength characteristics of said display areas;

a driving circuit for light-emitting each said monochromatic

20   light source by timesharing;

a detector for photo-electrically converting said reflected light or said radiated light from said information code;

a determination circuit for fetching an output from said detector at every wavelength band component in synchronization

25   with a driving signal from said driving circuit, determining whether

said output at said every wavelength band component exceeds a predetermined determination level, and further determining which wavelength band component is included in said output, based on said determination; and

5   a decoder for decoding information displayed by said information code, based on a combination of outputs from said determination circuit, indicative of respective colors of emitted light, to thereby output a decoding result.

   5. A reader for an information code formed by three or

10 more types of display areas in a predetermined arrangement, said display areas being different in reflected or radiated wavelength characteristic, comprising:

   three different monochromatic light sources for emitting light in three different wavelength bands, respectively;

15   a driving circuit for light-emitting each said monochromatic light sources by timesharing;

   a detector for photo-electrically converting said reflected light or said radiated light from said information code;

   an A/D converter for fetching an output from said detector at

20 every wavelength band component in synchronization with a driving signal from said driving circuit, and converting said output at said every wavelength band component into a digital value; and

   a decoder for comparing a ratio of a received light quantity of each color output by said A/D converter with a previously

25 registered ratio of a received light quantity of said each color, and

determining that a bar color is equal to a color being closest in ratio.